



NEWS & VIEWS

**March
2024**

The Journal of The National Association of Wine & Beer Makers (Amateur)

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

The National Show is almost upon us, it takes place at The Royal Court Hotel in Coventry on Friday, Saturday & Sunday April 19th, 20th and 21st. It looks like being another good event. We have 65 people booked in for the full weekend plus two who are staying on Friday night only. Almost all of you have used the online hotel booking and menu option forms.

At our Committee meeting a couple of weeks ago Elaine reported that we had 526 entries and she was expecting further entries from eight or so competitors, including me.

A few reminders bottle reception is in the Blenheim Suite from 1:30 to 5:00. Don't forget to book your Friday night dinner when you arrive, normally there is a choice of two sittings.

The judges briefing will take place on Saturday morning at 8:45, and judging should commence at around 9:15 and hopefully it will be completed by 1:00 (beware Elaine if not).

Audrey will be running a "Call My Bluff" commercial wine tasting at 2:00 in the Windsor Suite.

At around 3:15 the presentation of class trophies will take place in the Windsor Suite. When this is completed it will be time to collect your bottles from the show hall.

Please be seated for Saturday dinner at 7:15, the hotel has the seating plans and menu options. Dress code is smart casual, (no sweatshirts, t-shirts, jeans etc.)

The AGM takes place on Sunday 21st April at 10:00. All the information you need for this is contained in this newsletter so please remember to print it and bring it with you.

Finally, can I wish you all the success you hope for with your entries. I look forward to seeing you all in Coventry.

Charles Hill

HELP REQUIRED

Help is needed at the show to assist with following -

- To assist the Trophy secretary on Friday afternoon with checking the trophy returns (one person required), on Saturday morning with setting up the Trophy table for the afternoon presentation (one/two people required), and on Saturday afternoon with the trophy presentation (three people required)
- To assist the Entries and Results secretary on Saturday morning with printing the certificates (one person required, must be familiar with using a laptop computer and printer)

If anyone could help with this, then please contact Elaine – cseaws@nawb.org.uk before the show.

ENTRIES AND CONFERENCE BOOKINGS

Entries Close on Wednesday April 3rd,

Most of you have already entered but a few members entries are still awaited.

You can make your entries online using our website nawb.org.uk.

At the welcome page click on Please see the details on our show page.

Then click on Show Entry and Conference Booking form or if you prefer paper copies in word and pdf versions are available.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS (AMATEUR)

64th Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 21st April 2024, 10:00 am

at the Royal Court Hotel, Coventry

Agenda

1) Opening of meeting – President

2) Apologies for Absence

3) Minutes of 2023 AGM

4) Matters Arising

5) Chairman's report:

a) Presentation of Committee

b) Report

6) Treasurer's report

7) Membership

8) Election of Executive:

9) President & Vice President

Unanimously agreed by the Executive Committee that Peter Robinson is elected as President in place of Rowland Robson who is retiring.

Unanimously agreed by the Executive Committee that Bernard Lamb is elected as Vice President.

10) Any Other Business

11) Date and Venue of next Conference

12) Close of Meeting – President

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINE AND BEERMAKERS (AMATEUR)

Minutes of 63rd Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 16th April 2023, 10.00am at Coventry

Chairman Charles Hill commenced by asking our President, Rowland Robson to open the meeting. There were 32 members present.

1/ Opening of meeting – President

Rowland welcomed everyone present to the 63rd AGM. He apologised for the mix up over the room available for the AGM due to hotel management issues. He then called for a moments silence to remember those no longer with us. He added that he was pleased to see the number of members present and the increased numbers on the committee which enabled more jobs to be shared out. He called for a round of applause for the committee.

2/ **Apologies for Absence:** Roger Down, Charles Shelton, Alan and Wendy Eldret, Kate Edge, Quentin Palmer, Kevin Martin, Robert Gould, Robert and Sue Fergus, Lesley Cooper, James and Kelly Smith and Colin Tweed.

3/ **Minutes of the 2022 AGM:** It was agreed they were a true record as far as everyone could remember.

Proposed: Bernard Lamb, Seconded: Audrey Drinkwater, Minutes agreed unanimously.

4/ **Matters Arising:** There were none.

5/ Chairman's Report and Presentation

a) Presentation of Committee

Charles introduced the committee.

After the last AGM we were fortunate to receive offers from some members to join the Committee to help to spread the workload. So, I am happy to present some new and some not so new faces.

Pauline Pearce

I start with Pauline Pearce, your Vice-Chairman of NAWB, who has done the important job of fund raiser through raffles and the tombola for many years which has helped to keep finances healthy. She has been assisted in that role by

Audrey Drinkwater, who is both a new face and an old face as she was a committee member at the time, I joined the Committee. Pauline is willing to continue as Vice-Chairman but will hand over the fund-raising role to Audrey for our next show.

Elaine Robinson

Elaine has benefited from the enlarged Committee, giving up some of her previous heavy workload. She continues as Entries Secretary, producing all the bottle labels for the show and leads the awards team. Whilst the whole committee was involved in the revision of the show schedule and trophy allocations, she was at the forefront of the process.

Peter Robinson

Our Treasurer, he keeps us on the straight and narrow financially. He is also our membership secretary and negotiates insurance cover, not only for NAWB but also any affiliated circles who wish to benefit from this cover. He will have important information about standing orders following our change of bank account in his report later.

Colin Hotham

Our supplies officer. Obtains glasses awarded to first prize winners at our National Show as well as rosettes and stationery for NAWB, federations and circles.

Richard Baldwin

Our secretary. Takes the minutes of all our meetings detailing actions required.

Chris Jones

Show Manager. His duties are concentrated around the show weekend. He comes into his element from the time we arrive on the Thursday before the show until we leave.

Kevin Martin

Our Chief Steward. He is another whose duties are concentrated on the show weekend including checking bottles in and out of the show. This year he had extra work producing class markers for our revised show classification.

Dave Pulley

Convenor of Judges. Here much of the work takes place before the show. Ably assisted by Margaret, he invites qualified judges to judge at the show and allocates classes to them. Dropouts due to illness often lead to last-minute changes, which can be quite a problem.

Rob Price

A new Committee member. Took on the long vacant Trophy Secretary role, not an easy task with so many trophies and some of them reallocated to different classes. With some helpers, he did an excellent job.

Lesley Cooper

Another new Committee member in a new role of Show Liaison Officer dealing with hotel on menu options and seating plans for last night's dinner. She is not with us today as she had to rush off to a wedding yesterday.

Chris Pinnock

Again, new to the Committee he took on the website role, performing a considerable update. Unfortunately, Chris was unable to be with us this weekend and has decided to resign from the Committee. This leaves us with a problematic vacancy as we are currently unable to update the website. If any member has knowledge of WordPress or knows someone with that knowledge who would be prepared to help us with this, we would be very pleased to hear from them. In the meantime, information to members will be mainly through e-mails.

With the exception of Chris, the Committee are all prepared to continue on the Committee, though there may be some changes to the duties they perform when we meet up on Zoom.

B) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This time last year we were uncertain of our future and there were suggestions that NAWB would close down after this year's Show but the feeling of members at the AGM was to continue and with fresh faces on the Committee, made it possible to do so.

We made the decision to reduce the number of classes to reflect falling entries at the Show. The classes removed were mainly wine classes, with the beer section pretty much unchanged. A reallocation of trophies followed. We looked at the possibility of changing hotel, particularly because there had been some problems with some of the rooms that had not been refurbished, but nothing was available, so we decided to return to the Royal Court at Coventry but moving to a

smaller show room and dining area. The hotel has carried out further refurbishment of the rooms and I have heard of no complaints about the accommodation this year. Maybe now they need to sort out the heating problems in the Show rooms.

At the time we made these decisions, we anticipated a considerable drop in show entries. My report last year suggested we were anticipating around 500 to 600 bottles but the final bottle entry of over 850 surprised us all, so space in the show hall at judging and bottle collection was a little tight but that is a good problem to have, and I think everyone accepted the position.

So, to conclude, despite all the work of change that has gone on during the year, my report is considerably shorter and on a far more optimistic note than last year.

6/ Treasurer's Report.

Peter presented this report. A slightly more normal financial year ending June 2022 as we did at last have a show, but we came out quite well financially as we had already paid for the venue and a number of other items needed for the show. Overall, we had a surplus of £289 for the year ending up with a cash balance of around £14,000, as I predicted this time last year. The only unusual item on the accounts is the figure of nearly £300 for refunds. This was for those people who had paid conference fees for 2020 but were then unable to attend in 2022. My thanks to Derek McArthur for auditing the accounts remotely from Scotland. He is obviously warming to the task as he asked a few searching questions this year and managed to discover that I had inadvertently cheated one of my committee members out of 20p. Having withdrawn all except £1 from our Barclays account, I have received monthly threatening letters about closing our account if I don't complete various complicated forms – if only they would.

This year will of course be a more normal year and we can expect to show an overall deficit of something like £1,500. However, that still leaves our finances in a healthy state. We can also expect to lose a few members this year when the automatic forwarding of standing order payments to our Metro Bank account ceases. I plan to contact all those paying by standing order other than people who have taken them out over the past 3 years, by email, but it is inevitable that some previous supporters of NAWB will not renew their payments (they may even not realise they are still paying in some cases).

I am currently starting off the annual insurance renewal process and have contacted the Federations for an update on their numbers. These are steadily declining but hopefully we can keep the scheme going for a bit longer.

Proposed: Bruce Martin, Seconded: Alan Hinch, Report accepted unanimously.

7/ Membership Report

Peter presented the Membership figures.

	2022	2023
Honorary	13	13
Life	20	22
Members	95	88
Circles	39	37
Federations	5	4
Total	172	164

Membership figures are quite encouraging really, especially as we have managed to sign up a few new members this year to offset our inevitable losses. I'm not sure how we managed to gain 2 life members given that we no longer offer this option. Presumably somebody was incorrectly categorised last year.

8/ Election of Executive

Richard Baldwin proposed that Peter Robinson become Vice President.

Elected unanimously.

It was suggested that the committee be elected en bloc.

Proposed: Bernard Lamb, Seconded: Sue Robson

Charles asked for any volunteers and Mick Harrison volunteered to take on the website management role.

Committee elected unanimously.

9/ Any Other Business

Bernard Lamb said that he did not like the term "medium dry". He prefers the term "off dry". It was pointed out that we followed the Guild of Judges Guidelines.

Richard Baldwin raised the issue of saison beers in that the style is wider than the existing judging guide. It was agreed that guidelines would be looked at to see what might need updating.

Sue Robson liked the wine tasting format which made people think and got them talking.

Rob Price said there were various ways to present the clues which could be looked at.

Derek McArthur said that Ron Williams also thought that it generated a lot of discussion around the tables and Peter Coombs added that none of the panellists knew if they were telling the truth or not, so it made it more interesting.

It was agreed that we would do it again and the committee will discuss it further.

Derek McArthur raised the issue of where the cash reserve would go in the event of the winding up of NAWB. In Scotland, when they wound up their organisation, the members got the balance shared between them. He realised that currently the constitution said any outstanding balance would go to charity, but could this be rethought. This generated a great deal of discussion with the meeting generally feeling that the members should benefit. An example being the reduction of charges to attend the Show as this would benefit current members. The committee agreed to discuss this and come back with their thoughts on the matter.

The Constitution states explicitly that outstanding funds on closure of NAWB should not be distributed among the membership. The first option is to distribute among other organizations involved in homebrew activities and failing that the money should go to charity.

Date and Venue of Next Conference

Peter said that there were less problems than in the previous 2 years at Coventry. He had looked at Manchester, but it was no longer viable so Coventry it is for next year. He is going to ask for the 5th-7th April 2024. Update: We are going for the 19th -21st April

Close of Meeting – President

Rowland said that last year was a very morose meeting. This year the mood was greatly changed and good to see new younger members who were working very hard yesterday. He thanked all the members for attending the Show and AGM and wished us all a safe journey home. He closed the meeting at 10.45am.

NAWB ACCOUNTS

The accounts for the year to June 2023 are reproduced below. At the time of printing they are unaudited.

N.A.W.B. Accounts for the period 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023

INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

2021-2022	Income	2022-2023	2022-2023	Expenditure	2021-2022
1,200.00	Membership	1,176.00	-	Committee Travel	
432.00	Advance Membership	408.00	-	Committee Lunch/ Hall Hire	
309.80	Conference Tickets	1,375.00	2,200.00	Show & Conference	400.00
	Conference Entries	280.05	1,030.00	Committee Show Expenses	610.60
	Conference Entries - Postage	29.60	959.05	Trophies, Glasses, Rosettes & Engraving	252.70
480.00	Fundraising	415.50	172.48	Fundraising	18.00
	Show Tastings	-	137.25	Show Tastings	119.91
	Donations	0.15	80.66	Communications	96.30
50.88	Easy Fund raising	26.03	-	Photocopy	
0.61	Bank Interest	0.52	62.02	Stationery	46.87
			349.73	Website	63.31
1,360.00	Insurance	1,402.00	1,644.05	Insurance	1,486.69
	Insurance Admin	-	17.55	Membership refund/bank charges	299.00
32.00	Supplies/Sales	-	-	Supplies	
4.00	Misc Income	-	156.00	News & Views	186.69
			-	Future Show	
	Conference - Saturday Dinner	-	-	Conference - Saturday Dinner	-
<u>3,869.29</u>	Total Income	<u>5,112.85</u>	<u>6,808.79</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>3,580.07</u>
	Surplus Income / Expenditure	- 1,695.94			

Balance Sheet

Balance on Accounts as at 1 July 2022	14,648.62	
Excess income over expenses in 2022/23 -	1,695.94	
Adjustment to closing stock -	47.90	
Total	12,904.78	
Represented by:		
	596.17	Estimated Stock in hand (incl labels, pouches, conference badges, & certificates, glasses etc.)
		644.07
	12,308.61	Bank Balances
	-	Cash in hand
	12,904.78	Total Assets
TOTAL ASSETS	12,904.78	14,648.62

Certified that these accounts are correct:

Presented by Peter Robinson, Treasurer

Audited by: